

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the Claims as follows. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 12, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,074,215 (Tsurumi) in view of Japanese Patent JP02000122671 (JP02000122671) and U.S. Patent No. 6,062,868 (Toriumi).

It is gratefully acknowledged that that Claims 3-6, 9-11, and 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening Claim(s).

Tsurumi teaches a karaoke system in which karaoke stations can download karaoke data at different rates, can lower power consumption, and can prolong the service life of components such as a hard-disc drive.

In regard to the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 1, the Examiner states that Tsurumi does not teach or suggest the recitation of playing Karaoke music according to the service content by all the mobile terminals in the service group when the master mobile terminal transmits a play command to the slave terminals, wherein all the mobile terminals are synchronized in the service group (e.g., see, Office Action, page 3).

However, the Examiner asserts that the combination of JP02000122671 and Toriumi cures this deficiency. After reviewing JP02000122671 and Toriumi, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. Regarding the Examiner's assertion that the "master device" and "slave device" as disclosed by the Abstract of JP02000122671 inherently teaches a master commanding when slaves will play their music (e.g., see, Office Action, pp. 2-3), we disagree. The Abstract of JP02000122671 merely states:

"To provide a multifunctional network karaoke device capable of forming a network by being connected with another karaoke device, capable of conducting control [sic.] each other between the karaoke devices with the network formed, capable of being connected to an external network to receive a new music and to be stored in a storing means, and capable of using the stored new music in common with another karaoke device." (emphasis removed.)

"This network karaoke device is provided with a service trader 100 concerned [sic.] for supplying songs and video informations [sic.], a master karaoke device 200 for receiving the songs and the video informations [sic.] supplied from the trader 100 through a network, and plural slave karaoke devices 300, 400, [and] 500 connected to the master karaoke device 200 to store the songs and the video informations [sic.] received, so as to be used commonly." (emphasis removed.)

In other words, JP02000122671 teaches a “master” Karaoke can receive songs, and that songs can be played and stored on Karaoke devices. However, the exact mode of operation is not disclosed by the Abstract. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s assertion that JP02000122671 teaches a master commanding when slaves will play their music is unsupported by the cited passages and text of JP02000122671.

Furthermore, regarding the Examiner’s assertion that Toriumi “inherently requires the receive terminals to all be started at the same time, otherwise the sing-along would be out of synchronization,” it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. Toriumi does not teach or suggest receive terminals must be started at the same time. Rather, Toriumi teaches supplying background video data and music data to a plurality of sing-along data receiving terminals (40). Toriumi further teaches when a customer designates his desired melodies, if the melody data exists on a hard disc (13), then melody data will be fed to a music data decoder (14) so that a desired sing-along performance can be started immediately, or if the desired melody does not exist on hard disc (13), the music data and melody data can be obtained within 10-20 seconds. In other words, Toriumi teaches the exact time that data will be fed to the data decoder can vary depending upon whether the data exists on a hard disc (13). Thus, if the data exists on the hard disc of a first user, a desired sing-along performance can be started immediately, and if the data does not exist on the hard disc of a second user, then a desired sing-along performance would start in 10-20 seconds.

Regarding the Examiner's statement that "[t]he examiner notes that this patent teaches a master/slave system whereby the master keeps control of , [sic.] e.g. [sic.] synchronizes, how and what all the units can play." (emphasis removed) it is unclear which "Patent" the Examiner is referring to (i.e., JP02000122671 or Toriumi). However, as Toriumi does not teach or suggest a master and slave terminals, it is assumed that the Examiner is referring to JP02000122671. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect as the cited passage and text of JP02000122671 merely teaches a "master" Karaoke can receive songs, and that songs can be played and stored on Karaoke devices. However, as stated above, the exact mode of operation is not disclosed by the Abstract of JP02000122671.

Accordingly, as the cited references do not teach or suggest either each and every limitation of Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

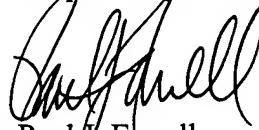
Regarding the Rejection of independent Claims 7, 18, and 19, these Claims include similar recitations as those contained in Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 7, 18, and 19 are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the rejection of Claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claims 7, 18, and 19 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 18, and 19 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-17, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 8, and 12 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-19, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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